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Message Text

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70
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SPM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 NIC-01 RSR-01 COME-00 /106 W
---------- 098192
R 150830Z AUG 73
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7914
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIEPI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8216

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJ: NEW BIRTH CONTROL UNDER ATTACK?

REF: HONG KONG 8067, HONG KONG 8064

SUMMARY. PEOPLES DAILY HAS PRINTED WHAT APPEARS TO BE A POINTED CRITICISM OF THE MORE DRACONIAN BIRTH CONTROL MEASURES INTRODUCED THIS YEAR. THE CRITICISM ENAMATES FROM KIANGSU, BASE OF POLITBURO MEMBER HSU SHIH-YU. END SUMMARY

1. THE REGIME'S NEW PUSH ON BIRTH CONTROL, INTRODUCED EARLY THIS YEAR, HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FROM PEOPLES DAILY, BUT WITH POINTED CRITICISM FOR THE DRACONIAN APPROACH INVOLVED IN THAT PUSH. THE SUBJECT WAS TREATED IN TWO ARTICLES IN PEOPLES DAILY JULY 30, ONE DISCUSSING EXPEREINCE IN PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING AND THE OTHER THE PROMOTION OF LATE MARRIAGE. BOTH ARTICLES EMANATE FROM KIANGSU PROVINCE AND ARE STRONGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIENTED TO THE USE OF PERSUASION AND INDOCTRINATION IN CARRYING

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OUT BIRTH CONTROL POLICY. THE HUMAN PROBLEMS, SUCH AS FEAR OF SURGERY FOR STERILIZATION AND THE FORCED SEPARATION OF LOVERS ARE DESCRIBED WITH UNDERSTANDING AND EVEN SOME SYMPATHY.

2. THE CRITICISM COMES IN A PASSAGE WHICH DISCUSSES VACILLATING ATTITUDES AMONG THE MASSES TOWARD PRACTICING CONTRACEPTION. "SOME OF OUR COMRADES WERE IMPATIENT", IT IS SAID. "THEY HELD THAT FAMILY PLANNING WORK COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT PROPERLY AND WOULD PRODUCE SLOW RESULTS IF IDEOLOGICAL WORK WAS RELIED UPON, AND IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LAY DOWN A FEW HARD AND FAST REGULATIONS, SO THAT TIME COULD BE SAVED AND QUICK RESULTS PRODUCED." IT IS IMPLIED THAT THIS APPROACH IS WRONG; "METICULOUS" IDOELOGICAL WORK IS CALLED FOR TO WIN ACCEPTANCE BY THE MASSES AND TO "DOUBLE THE RESULTS BY HALF THE EFFORTS."

3. NEW, MORE FORCEFUL BIRTH CONTROL MEASURES, INCLUDING SUCH SANCTIONS AS DENIAL OF RATION CARDS FOR A THIRD BABY AND STRONG PRESSURE TO TERMINATE A THIRD PREGNANCY BY ABORTION, APPEAR TO HAVE HAD THEIR GENESIS IN NATIONAL BIRTH CONTROL CONFERENCES LATE LAST YEAR OR EARLY THIS YEAR. INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION JUST ACQUIRED CONFIRMS OUR SPECULATION THAT A DIRECTIVE SETTING FORTH THIS STERNER POLICY HAS BEEN ISSUED AND GIVEN WIDE DISSEMINATION WITH ORDERS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION (WR 30). (SYDNEY LIU OF NEWSWEEK CLAIMS HE HAS RECENT INFORMATION THAT THE DIRECTIVE AIM AT REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH RATE TO ONE PERCENT).

4. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS DIRECTIVE COULD BE THE TARGET OF CRITICISM. IF SO, RECENT REGIME POLICY MOVES ARE DRAWING FLAK IN THIS AREA AS WELL AS OVER THE DOWN-TO-THE-COUNTRYSIDE PROGRAM AND THE UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT EXAMINATION (REFTELS). KIANSU IS THE BASE OF POLITBURO MEMBER AND EASTERN CHINA MILITARY CHIEF HSU SHIH-YU, AND THE LEAST NUANCE OF CRITICISM FROM HIM BEARS WATCHING, PARTICULARLY NOW WHEN IT APPEARS THAT HIS MANCHURIAN COUNTERPART CHEN SHI-LIEN MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK ON THIS UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION.
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